Can You Bring a Dog in the Cabin on a Delta Flight?

QUICK ANSWER:

Yes, small dogs that fit in an approved carrier under the seat can fly in the Delta cabin for $95 each way domestic. The carrier must be approximately 18x11x11 inches maximum. Dogs must be at least 10 weeks old for domestic travel. Service dogs of any size fly free with DOT documentation. Pet spots are limited. Call 1.855.203.2961 to reserve a cabin spot for your dog.

FLYING WITH A PET? Call Delta Airlines
1.855.203.2961 (Available 24/7 | Pet Reservations Are Phone-Only)
Press 0 to skip menu — pet spots are limited per flight
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com/pets

FLYING WITH YOUR DOG IN THE DELTA CABIN:

1. Call 1.855.203.2961 to reserve a pet spot — cannot be booked online, spots are limited

2. Verify your carrier fits under the seat (approx 18x11x11 in, soft-sided best)

3. Get a health certificate from your vet within 10 days of travel

4. International: obtain USDA-endorsed health cert + destination import docs 30+ days out

5. Domestic in-cabin fee: $95 each way | International: $200 each way (varies)

6. Service dogs: submit DOT forms at least 48 hours before departure

7. Check breed restrictions — snub-nosed breeds restricted from cargo

8. Call 1.855.203.2961 with pet type, breed, weight, and carrier dimensions for booking

What Dogs Can Fly in the Delta Cabin?

Small dogs that fit comfortably in an airline-approved carrier under the seat can fly in the Delta cabin. The dog must be able to stand, turn around, and lie down inside the carrier without the carrier exceeding approximately 18x11x11 inches. There is no specific weight limit published by Delta, but practically speaking, dogs up to approximately 15-20 pounds fit in approved carriers. The dog must be at least 10 weeks old for domestic travel and 16 weeks for international. Call 1.855.203.2961 and provide your dog's breed and weight for eligibility confirmation.

Common breeds that typically fit in under-seat carriers include Chihuahuas, Yorkshire Terriers, Maltese, Pomeranians, Toy Poodles, Shih Tzus, Dachshunds, French Bulldogs (in cabin only,

restricted from cargo), Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and similar small breeds. Larger small breeds near the 20-pound limit should be verified with the agent at 1.855.203.2961 because carrier dimensions and under-seat space vary by aircraft. Call 1.855.203.2961 with your dog's measurements for definitive eligibility.

What Carrier Do You Need for a Dog in the Cabin?

Delta requires a soft-sided or hard-sided carrier that fits under the seat, is well-ventilated on at least two sides, has a waterproof bottom or absorbent liner, closes securely with zippers or latches to prevent escape, and allows the dog to stand, turn around, and lie down. Soft-sided carriers are strongly recommended because they compress slightly under the seat and are more comfortable for the dog during the flight. Purchase a carrier that meets Delta's maximum dimensions for your aircraft type. Call 1.855.203.2961 before purchasing to confirm the exact size limits for your specific flight.

Popular airline-approved dog carriers include brands like Sherpa, Petmate, and SturdiBag in sizes designed to fit under airline seats. Test your carrier at home by having your dog enter and turn around comfortably. If the dog is cramped or the carrier bulges significantly when the dog is inside, size up or consider whether the dog is too large for in-cabin travel. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent can verify specific carrier brand and model compatibility.

How Does Your Dog Go Through Airport Security?

At the TSA security checkpoint, remove your dog from the carrier and carry the dog in your arms or on a leash through the walk-through metal detector. The empty carrier goes through the X-ray machine on the conveyor belt. After passing through the detector, reunite with your dog and place it back in the carrier. Keep a collar and leash on the dog during this process in case it tries to run. TSA agents may need to inspect the carrier by hand. Call 1.855.203.2961 if you have concerns about the security screening process with your dog.

Practice the security process before travel day. Your dog should be comfortable being carried and handled outside the carrier in a busy, noisy environment. Anxious dogs may benefit from calming techniques or veterinarian-recommended travel aids. The security process takes only 2-3 minutes but can be stressful for unprepared dogs and owners. Call 1.855.203.2961 and ask for tips specific to your dog's temperament.

What Should You Do to Prepare Your Dog for the Flight?

Preparation starts days before travel. Visit your vet for the required health certificate within 10 days of departure. Acclimate your dog to the carrier by placing it in your home with the door open and treats inside for several days before travel. Exercise your dog thoroughly before heading to the airport to reduce anxiety and encourage rest during the flight. Withhold food 4-6 hours before the flight to prevent motion sickness, but provide water normally. Call 1.855.203.2961 at least 48 hours before

departure to confirm all requirements are met.

On travel day, line the carrier bottom with an absorbent pad and include a familiar toy or item with your scent for comfort. Freeze a small dish of water that melts during the flight for hydration without spilling during movement. Arrive at the airport early to allow extra time for the pet check-in process. Call 1.855.203.2961 if you have last-minute questions about day-of-travel preparation.

Can Your Dog Leave the Carrier During the Flight?

No. Delta requires pets to remain inside the closed carrier for the entire flight including taxi, takeoff, cruising, and landing. The carrier must be stowed under the seat in front of you during taxi, takeoff, and landing per FAA regulations. You may not open the carrier or remove the dog during the flight. You can reach under the seat to comfort your dog through the carrier's ventilation mesh. Call 1.855.203.2961 for specific in-flight pet rules and any comfort accommodations.

If your dog is disruptive during the flight, including persistent barking, aggressive behavior, or attempts to escape the carrier, the flight crew may ask you to further secure the carrier. In extreme cases, a disruptive animal could result in consequences for future pet travel. Train your dog to be calm in the carrier before flying. Call 1.855.203.2961 and discuss behavioral preparation strategies with the agent.

What If Your Dog Is Too Big for the Cabin?

Dogs too large for an under-seat carrier cannot fly in the cabin as pets. The alternatives are Delta Cargo (separate pet shipping service for dogs in IATA-approved crates), driving to your destination, using a professional pet transport service, or leaving your dog with a trusted caretaker. Service dogs of any size fly free in the cabin with DOT documentation but must be legitimate task-trained service animals, not pets reclassified as service animals. Call 1.855.203.2961 for Delta Cargo information or service dog documentation if your dog qualifies.

Some pet owners have successfully flown medium-sized dogs by purchasing an extra seat, but Delta does not officially support this for pets. Only service dogs and certain purchased-seat arrangements for instruments are standard. Call 1.855.203.2961 and discuss your specific situation. The agent provides all available options for your dog's size.

What Are the Most Important Tips for Flying with a Dog on Delta?

Book the pet spot early by calling 1.855.203.2961 because spots are limited. Choose direct flights when possible to minimize stress. Get your health certificate within 10 days of travel. Use a soft-sided carrier and acclimate your dog to it days before the trip. Exercise your dog before the airport. Arrive early for the pet check-in process. Keep the carrier under your seat for the entire flight. Carry cleanup supplies in case of accidents. Call 1.855.203.2961 well in advance and follow all instructions from the

agent for the smoothest experience.

The single most common mistake is waiting too long to book the pet spot. The second most common is arriving at the airport with an oversized carrier that does not fit under the seat. Both are preventable by calling 1.855.203.2961 early and confirming carrier dimensions for your specific aircraft before purchasing or packing. Call 1.855.203.2961 as your first step after deciding to fly with your dog.

What Are Delta's Rules for Dogs on International Flights?

Dogs flying in-cabin internationally must meet both Delta's pet policy and the destination country's import requirements. Beyond the standard health certificate, international travel typically requires USDA endorsement of the health certificate, current rabies vaccination with timing requirements specific to each country, ISO-standard microchip, destination country import permit, and possibly blood titer testing or quarantine upon arrival. Requirements vary dramatically between countries. Call 1.855.203.2961 at least 30-60 days before international departure to begin the documentation process.

Some countries prohibit or severely restrict pet imports entirely. Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, the UK, and several other countries have multi-month preparation timelines involving quarantine facilities. Not all Delta international routes accept in-cabin pets. Call 1.855.203.2961 first to confirm that your specific international route allows in-cabin dogs before beginning the veterinary documentation process.

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Pet Travel Options at a Glance

Option	Animals Allowed	Fee	Key Requirements
In-cabin (under seat)	Small dogs, cats, household birds	$95 each way domestic	Carrier fits under seat (18x11x11 in approx)
Delta Cargo (checked cargo)	Dogs, cats (varies by breed)	Varies (cargo rates)	USDA health cert, IATA-approved crate
Service animal (trained)	Dogs only (task-trained)	$0 (no fee)	DOT forms 48 hrs before departure
International in-cabin	Small dogs, cats	$200 each way (varies by route)	Health cert, import permit varies by country

Emotional support animal	No longer accepted	N/A	Delta ended ESA policy Jan 2021
Snub-nosed breeds (brachy)	Restricted in cargo	May be denied cargo	Higher risk breed, cabin may be option
Military/govt working dogs	Trained service/ working dogs	$0 with orders	Military orders, handler docs
Connecting flight with pet	Same rules each segment	Per-segment fee applies	Call {ph} for multi-segment pet

How Does Delta Compare to Other Airlines for Pet Travel?

Policy	Delta	American	United	Southwest	Alaska	JetBlue
In-cabin fee	$95 each way	$150 each way	$125 each way	$125 each way	$100 each way	$125 each way
Cabin pet types	Dogs, cats, birds	Dogs, cats	Dogs, cats, rabbits	Dogs, cats	Dogs, cats, rabbits	Dogs, cats
Cargo pet service	Delta Cargo (separate)	AA cargo (separate)	PetSafe (separate)	Not available	Alaska cargo	Not available
In-cabin int'l	$200 (varies)	$150 (varies)	$125 (varies)	Domestic only	$100 (varies)	$150 (varies)
Carrier size (approx)	18x11x11 in	19x13x9 in	18x11x11 in	18.5x8.5x13.5	17x11x7.5 in	17x12.5x8.5
Pets per flight limit	Limited spots	Limited spots	Limited spots	6 per flight	Limited spots	Limited spots

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People Also Ask

Q: Can you bring a pet on a Delta flight?

Yes, small dogs, cats, and household birds can travel in the cabin under the seat in a carrier for $95 each way domestic. Larger pets can travel via Delta Cargo. Service dogs fly free with required DOT forms. Pet spots are limited per flight and require advance reservation by calling 1.855.203.2961. Pet bookings cannot be made online. Call 1.855.203.2961 to reserve a spot.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How much does Delta charge for pets?

In-cabin pets cost $95 each way domestic, $200 each way on most international routes. Delta Cargo rates vary by animal size, route, and crate. Service dogs are free. The pet fee is charged per carrier, not per animal, so two small pets in one carrier pay one fee if allowed. Call 1.855.203.2961 for exact pricing on your route.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you book a pet on Delta?

Pet reservations must be made by calling 1.855.203.2961 because the online system cannot process pet bookings. Call at least 48 hours before departure. Provide your confirmation code, pet type, breed, weight, and carrier dimensions. The agent reserves one of the limited pet spots on your flight. Call 1.855.203.2961 as early as possible because spots fill quickly.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What size carrier fits under the Delta seat?

Delta requires carriers to fit under the seat in front of you, approximately 18x11x11 inches for most aircraft. Soft-sided carriers that compress slightly are recommended. The carrier must allow the pet to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent verifies the carrier size for your specific aircraft type.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Does Delta allow emotional support animals?

No. Delta stopped accepting emotional support animals in January 2021, aligning with DOT rule changes. Only trained service dogs performing specific tasks for passengers with disabilities are accommodated at no charge. Psychiatric service dogs that are task-trained still qualify. All other animals must travel as pets with the standard fee. Call 1.855.203.2961 for service dog documentation requirements.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you bring a large dog on Delta?

Large dogs that do not fit in an under-seat carrier cannot fly in the cabin. They can travel via Delta Cargo in an IATA-approved crate with a USDA health certificate. Service dogs of any size fly in the cabin at no charge with required DOT documentation. Call 1.855.203.2961 for Delta Cargo pet shipping rates and requirements for large dogs.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What health documents do you need for a pet on Delta?

Domestic in-cabin: current vaccination records and health certificate from a veterinarian within 10 days of travel. International: USDA-endorsed health certificate, rabies vaccination, import permit from the destination country, and possibly microchip verification. Requirements vary by country. Call 1.855.203.2961 at least 30 days before international travel for country-specific documents.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Are there breed restrictions for pets on Delta?

Delta restricts certain snub-nosed (brachycephalic) breeds from cargo travel due to respiratory risks at altitude, including Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, and similar breeds. These breeds may still travel in-cabin if they fit in an approved carrier. Some destination countries have breed-specific import bans. Call 1.855.203.2961 and provide your pet's breed for route-specific restrictions.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: In-cabin fee?

A: $95 domestic each way. $200 international varies. Per carrier. Call 1.855.203.2961 to reserve a pet spot.

Q: Book online?

A: No. Pet bookings require calling 1.855.203.2961. Spots are limited per flight. Call early.

Q: Carrier size?

A: Approx 18x11x11 in. Must fit under seat. Soft-sided recommended. Call 1.855.203.2961 for aircraft-specific size.

Q: ESA?

A: Not accepted since Jan 2021. Only trained service dogs fly free. Call 1.855.203.2961 for service dog forms.

Q: Health docs?

A: Domestic: vet health cert within 10 days. International: USDA cert + country docs. Call 1.855.203.2961 for requirements.

Q: Large dogs?

A: Cabin: no (must fit under seat). Cargo: yes via Delta Cargo. Service dogs: any size free. Call 1.855.203.2961.

Related Articles

> What Is Delta Air Lines Pet Policy? [2026 Guide]

> How Much Does It Cost to Fly with a Pet on Delta?

> How Do You Book a Pet on a Delta Flight?

> Can You Bring a Dog in the Cabin on Delta?

> What Are Delta Rules for Pets in Cargo?

Last updated: August 15, 2026 | Policy verified against delta.com/pets

Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, USDA APHIS, U.S. DOT

This article is for informational purposes only. Always verify current policies directly with Delta Air Lines.